



**MONTANA
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March 4, 2009

SENATE TAXATION

EXHIBIT NO. 3

DATE 3.4.09

BILL NO. SB456

The Honorable Jeff Essmann, Chair and members of the Senate Tax Committee, Montana Legislature

Senator Taylor Brown	Senator Jerry Black
Senator Gary Branae	Senator Ron Erickson
Senator Kelly Gebhardt	Senator Kim Gillan
Senator Bradly Hamlett	Senator Christine Kaufmann
Senator Robert Story	Senator Bruce Tutvedt

Dear Chairman, Essmann:

The American Indian Caucus is in strong support of SB 456 which would exempt Tribal Governments from property tax on tribally owned fee lands within the reservations.

This policy would strengthen the government-to-government relationships between Montana's tribal nations and the state of Montana.

This bill does the right thing in putting tribally owned property on equal footing with other governmentally owned lands including counties, cities, school districts, and many other groups from property tax.

We urge your support of this important policy bill for the 2009 Legislature.

Sincerely,

Frosty Calf Boss Ribs
Chair
Montana American Indian Caucus